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Union makes more than 75 years of labor history accessible to the public

The largest construction trades local in the United States, Operating Engineers Local 3 (OE3), recently made every available issue of its monthly publication, *Engineers News*, accessible on computers, tablets and smartphones at www.oe3.org/engineers-news/.

Since 1943, the *Engineers News* has been an important way for the union to communicate regularly with its membership, keeping them informed on issues impacting their livelihood and their industry. In the process, the publication has documented the industrial, political and social history of the United States, making it an invaluable resource for a wide range of research and study.

OE3 represents over 36,000 heavy equipment operators and other workers in construction, public works and law enforcement in Northern California, Northern Nevada, Utah and Hawaii. Because of this, access to these archives gives unique insight into important infrastructure development in these regions, the lives of construction workers whose skills were called upon during World War II and other conflicts, and the struggles and triumphs of working people during nearly eight decades of American history.

In making this extensive archival collection available to the public, OE3 Business Manager Russ Burns hopes to bring more awareness to the role of Operating Engineers and the labor movement in improving the lives of America's working families.

"Anyone interested in labor history and the evolution of our country's middle class should study this incredible volume of work," said Burns. "It's important to pause and take a look at where we came from and where we are going."

Local 3 also published a commemorative-edition history book titled, *Breaking Ground*, which is available online.

For more information about Operating Engineers Local 3, please visit www.oe3.org. For more high-res historical photos, please contact Charlie Costello at ccostello@oe3.org.

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Photo Credits:

**1914-Twin-Peak-Tunnel-groundbreaking: The Twin Peak Tunnel project highlights the work of Operating Engineers in San Francisco in 1914. Many of these members amalgamated into Local 3 in 1939.*

**1920-Tunnel-Mucker: Operators like this one, photographed using a tunnel-mucker in San Francisco, highlight Operating Engineers who would eventually amalgamate from several smaller locals into Local 3 in 1939 (photo courtesy of Local 3 member Al Dalton).*

**Shasta-Dam-1944: From 1940 to 1944, these Local 3 Operating Engineers worked on the Shasta Dam in Shasta County.*